

Operations Job Market and Beyond

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About Me

- B.S. in Mathematics, Peking University (2007-2011).



About Me

- Ph.D. in Operations Management, Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis (2011-2016).



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- On the operations academic job market in AY2015-2016.

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- Assistant Professor of Operations Management, New York University Shanghai (Sept. 2016-).

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- Assistant Professor of Operations Management, New York University Shanghai (Sept. 2016-).
- Research and Teaching: Operations Management, Business Analytics.

Outline

- Big picture of operations academia
- Why pursue a faculty position in operations (or not)?
- Operations job market advices

Operations Academia

Operations Academia in a Nutshell

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- Academia: Scholars who run the **business of knowledge**.

- Creating knowledge: Research.
- Communicating knowledge: Teaching.

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 - Subjectivity: What if the experts are wrong?
 - Variability: Too few experts are qualified to judge a specific research work/scholar.
- Implication:
 - Academia: Business of reputation.

Why Operations Professor?

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- Services
 - Internal: faculty committees, program directors, etc.
 - External: paper/grant reviewers, journal editors, academic community officers.

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- Tenure.
 - Convince the experts of your field that they can write reference letters indicating you did the best research.
 - Be liked by your tenured colleagues that they interpret the letters positively.

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- Big data trend.
 - Teaching needs and openings.
- Little funding pressure.
- Decent pay.

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- Poor pay by hour.

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Your Goal as a Job Market Candidate

Have yourself visible, and convince the recruiting committee that

- You can well address their needs;
- You will be a good colleague;
- You can do great research;
- You can do well in classrooms.

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 - A candidate is limited by his/her weakest attribute.
- Winner-take-all.
 - Only the top candidate(s) can get the offer for each position.

General Advices for the Pre-Job-Market Stage

- Be an early-bird.
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- Hone your communication skills.
 - You need to convince the schools to hire you.

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- Rehearse your talks.
 - Practice makes perfect.

Journey towards Faculty Job

- Application.
- Conference/skype interviews.
- Campus interviews (fly-outs).
- Decisions.

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- Conference interviews.
 - Have your conference talk and interview pitch well rehearsed.
 - Engage the recruiters with your research, your teaching, and, most importantly, yourself.

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 - Handle questions and interruptions gracefully.
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- One-on-one meetings.

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- Colleagues.
- Tenure cases.
- Research support.
 - Research environment, research fund, teaching load, service load.

Summary

- Devote all yourself.
- Start early.
- Apply broadly.
- Contact professors wherever possible.
- Carefully choose where to start your career.

Thank you!

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www.nyu.edu/projects/rzhang/Reflection_OM_Job_Market_Philip_Zhang.pdf